

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-8 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 19, 22, 24, 27, 30 and 31 as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a data acquisition request for a server on a network;

~~data acquisition means for, in a case where a plurality of data acquisition requests for individual servers are inputted by said input means, implementing respective acquisition processes for accessing the individual servers on [[a]] the network in parallel, in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted by said input means, and for acquiring respective data from the individual servers;~~

image data generation means for generating image formation data on the basis of the respective data acquired in the acquisition processes implemented by said ~~data~~ acquisition means;

image forming means for forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated by said image data generation means; and

control means for controlling said image data generation means to generate the image formation data in an order in which said data acquisition means has acquired the respective acquired data from the individual servers, and said image forming means to form an image in an order of the generated image formation data,

wherein in a case where a second data acquisition request from said input means is inputted while said acquisition means implements a first acquisition process based on a first data acquisition request from said input means, said acquisition means implements a second acquisition process based on the second data acquisition request in parallel with the first acquisition process, and an order of data acquisition requests from said input means is not always related to the order of respective data acquired in the respective acquisition processes.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein, when data on a server includes location information which indicates locations where sub-data as building components of the data are held, all sub-data designated by the location information included in the data from the server are acquired by said data acquisition means, and generation of the image formation data by said image data generation means and image formation by said image forming means are started from data for which all data including the sub-data have been acquired.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:
timer means for measuring time required until completion of acquisition of data from the server;

setting means for setting a wait time; and

cancel means for canceling data acquisition from the server when a value measured by said timer means exceeds a predetermined time.

22. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting a data acquisition request for a server on a network;

data acquisition means for, in a case where a plurality of data acquisition requests for individual servers are inputted by said input means, implementing respective acquisition processes for accessing the individual servers on the network in parallel, in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted by said input means, and for acquiring respective data from the individual servers;

image data generation means for generating image formation data corresponding to each server on the basis of the data acquired ~~from the server~~ in the acquisition processes by said data acquisition means, wherein said image data generation means generates the image formation data in an order in which said data acquisition means has acquired the respective acquired data from the individual servers;

image forming means for forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated by said image data generation means; and

control means for controlling said image forming means to form an image in an order of generation of the generated image formation data,

wherein in a case where a second data acquisition request from said input means is inputted while said acquisition means implements a first acquisition process based on a first data acquisition request from said input means, said acquisition means implements a second acquisition process based on the second data acquisition request in parallel with the first acquisition process, and an order of data acquisition requests from said input means is not always related to the order of respective data acquired in the respective acquisition processes.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising:
timer means for measuring time required until completion of acquisition of data from the server;

setting means for setting a wait time; and

cancel means for canceling data acquisition from the server when a value measured by said timer means exceeds a predetermined time.

24. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:
an input step of inputting a data acquisition request for a server on a network;
~~a data~~ an acquisition step of, in a case where a plurality of data acquisition requests for individual servers are inputted in said input step, implementing respective acquisition processes for accessing the individual servers on the network in parallel, in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted in said input step, and acquiring
respective data from the individual servers;

an image data generation step of generating image formation data on the basis of the respective data acquired in the acquisition processes implemented in said data acquisition step;

an image forming step of forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated in said image data generation step; and

a control step of controlling to generate the image formation data in an order in which the respective acquired data have been acquired from the individual servers in said data acquisition step, and to form an image in an order of generation of the generated image formation data,

wherein in a case where a second data acquisition request is inputted in said input step while said acquisition step implements a first acquisition process based on a first data acquisition request, said acquisition step implements a second acquisition process based on the second data acquisition request in parallel with the first acquisition process, and an order of data acquisition requests inputted in said input step is not always related to the order of respective data acquired in the respective acquisition processes.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein, when data on the server includes location information which indicates locations where sub-data as building components of the data are held, all sub-data designated by the location information included in the data from the server are acquired in said data acquisition step, and generation of the image formation data and image formation are started from data for which all data including the sub-data have been acquired.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising:
a time measurement step of measuring time required until completion of acquisition of data from the server;
a setting step of setting a wait time; and
a cancel step of canceling data acquisition from the server when a value measured in said time measurement step exceeds a predetermined time.

27. (Currently Amended) An image forming method comprising:
an input step of inputting a data acquisition request for a server on a network;
~~a data an acquisition step of, in a case where a plurality of data acquisition requests for individual servers are inputted in said input step, implementing respective acquisition processes for accessing the individual servers on the network in parallel, in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted in said input step, and of~~
acquiring respective data from the individual servers;

an image data generation step of generating image formation data corresponding to each server on the basis of the data acquired ~~from the server~~ in the acquisition processes in said ~~data~~ acquisition step, wherein the image formation data is generated in an order in which the respective acquired data are acquired from the individual servers in said ~~data~~ acquisition step;

an image forming step of forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated in said image data generation step; and

a control step of controlling in an order of generation of generated image formation data,

wherein in a case where a second data acquisition request is inputted in said input step while said acquisition step implements a first acquisition process based on a first data acquisition request, said acquisition step implements a second acquisition process based on the second data acquisition request in parallel with the first acquisition process, and an order of data acquisition requests inputted in said input step is not always related to the order of respective data acquired in the respective acquisition processes.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27, further comprising:
a time measurement step of measuring time required until completion of acquisition of data from the server;
a setting step of setting a wait time; and
a cancel step of canceling data acquisition from the server when a value measured in said time measurement step exceeds a predetermined time.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A storage medium which stores a program for implementing an image forming method comprising:

an input step module of inputting a data acquisition requests for a server on a network;

~~a data~~ an acquisition step module of, in a case where a plurality of data acquisition requests for individual servers are inputted in said input step module, implementing respective acquisition processes for accessing the individual servers on the network in parallel, in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted in said input step, and of acquiring respective data from the individual servers;

an image data generation step module of generating image formation data on the basis of the respective data acquired in the acquisition processes implemented in said ~~data~~ acquisition step module;

an image forming step module of forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated in said image data generation step module; and

a control step module of controlling to generate the image formation data in an order in which the respective acquired data have been acquired from the individual servers in said ~~data~~ acquisition step, and in an order of generation of the generated image formation data,

wherein in a case where a second data acquisition request is inputted in said input step module while said acquisition step implements a first acquisition process based on a first data acquisition request, said acquisition step implements a second acquisition process based on the second data acquisition request in parallel with the first acquisition process, and an order of data acquisition requests inputted in said input step is not always related to the order of respective data acquired in the respective acquisition processes.

31. (Currently Amended) A storage medium which stores a program for implementing an image forming method, comprising:

an image step module of inputting a data acquisition request for a server on a network;

~~a data~~ an acquisition step module of, in a case where a plurality of data acquisition requests for individual servers are inputted by said input means, implementing respective acquisition processes for accessing the accessing individual servers on the network in parallel, ~~in a case where a plurality of such data acquisition requests for the individual servers are inputted in said input step;~~ and of acquiring respective data from the individual servers;

an image data generation step module of generating image formation data corresponding to each server on the basis of the data acquired ~~from the server~~ in the acquisition processes in said ~~data~~ acquisition step module, wherein the image formation data is generated in an order in which the respective acquired data are acquired from the individual servers in said ~~data~~ acquisition step;

an image forming step module of forming an image on the basis of the image formation data generated in said image data generation step module; and

a control step module of controlling to form an image in an order of generation of the generated image formation data,

wherein in a case where a second data acquisition request is inputted in said input step module while said acquisition step implements a first acquisition process based on a first data acquisition request, said acquisition step implements a second acquisition process based on the second data acquisition request in parallel with the first acquisition process, and an order of data

acquisition requests inputted in said input step is not always related to the order of respective data acquired in the respective acquisition processes.